

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7379**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1599

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 18, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 17, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, and Audiologists.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Lehe

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill allows certain state licensure exams to apply to the psychology reciprocity requirements. It amends several definitions concerning speech-language pathology and audiology. It also requires licensure of speech-language pathology aides, associates, and assistants.

The bill amends licensure requirements of speech-language pathologists and audiologists. It requires an audiologist to possess a doctorate degree after January 1, 2007. It also allows the Professional Standards Board to issue credentials to certain speech language professionals.

This bill allows certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists who meet certain requirements to be considered to have a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification. It amends reciprocity licensure requirements for speech language pathologists and audiologists. It requires licenses to be displayed. The bill also makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill allows the Professional Standards Board to issue licenses to speech-language professionals already licensed by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board. The fiscal impact of this provision is dependent on the extent to which credentials are sought by the professionals.

The bill also requires speech-language pathologists to register its support personnel with the Health Professions Bureau. The licensing fees imposed by the Board should help off set the cost of creating and maintaining a

registry of support personnel.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) This bill creates licenses for speech-language pathologists who have either a associate degree or bachelor's degree. It also increases the education requirement for the audiologist license from a master's degree to a doctorate. Both of these provisions could have the potential to affect the number of licenses that are applied for. Currently, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board charges \$150 for speech-language pathologists and audiologists licenses and \$50 for the speech-language pathology aides license. The Board may adopt rules in regards to the licensure of the new speech-language pathologist licenses. The fiscal impact of this bill is dependent on the fees set by the Board and on how the number of license applicants might vary.

The bill also includes an examination, other than the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology, that is passed by an applicant from another state as fulfilling the examination requirement for out-of-state applicants. This provision could lead to additional applicants for a psychology license. The Psychology Board charges \$100 for licensure either by examination or by endorsement.

*Penalty Provision:* If this bill results in additional speech-pathologist licenses being issued, the potential for violation of the law regarding speech-pathologist licensure may be increased. The violation is a Class B misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Penalty Provision:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Valerie Ruda, 317-232-9867.